

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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USUN NEW YORK 3735

UNCLAS BEIRUT 2409

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: IS, LE, SCUL
SUBJECT: REPORTED ISRAELI ARCHEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS NEAR TYRE

1. ON APRIL 26 Wafa AND LEFTIST AS SAFIR REPORTED ISRAELIS HAD REMOVED ARCHEOLOGICAL ARTIFACTS NEAR TYRE.
2. Wafa'S ENGLISH LANGUAGE BULLETIN CARRIED FOLLOWING ITEM.
"ACCORDING TO REPORTS FROM SOUTH LEBANON, ARCHEOLOGISTS GUARDED BY ISRAELI SOLDIERS EXCAVATING NEAR THE TOMB OF HIRAM, EAST OF TYRE, HAVE DUG UP MARBLE STATUES OF KINGS DATING CENTURIES BEFORE CHRIST, AND A GOLDEN STATUE OF ONE OF HIRAM'S SONS. REPORTS ADDED THAT A HELICOPTER WHICH LANDED YESTERDAY AT THE EVACUATION SITE NEAR THE VILLAGE OF HANNAWIYAH HAS TRANSPORTED SEVERAL COPPER UTENSILS AND CERAMICS, AND THREE GREY COFFINS TO ISRAEL."
3. AS SAFIR, QUOTING LOCAL VILLAGERS, SAID THE ISRAELIS ON APRIL 25 HAD TAKEN A GOLDEN STATUE OF ONE OF HIRAM'S SONS, MARBLE STATUES OF OTHER KINGS OF THE ERA, THREE BURIAL CASKETS AND UNCLASSIFIED

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A COLLECTION OF BRASS AND POTTERY FROM THE TOMB OF KING HIRAM OF TYRE. (THE BURIAL GROUND IS, 8 KMS SOUTHEAST OF TYRE.)

4. AS SAFIR QUOTED THE VILLAGERS AS SAYING ISRAELI SOLDIERS HAS STOOD GUARD, AS EXPERTS FLOWN IN BY MILITARY HELICOPTER TOOK THE OBJECTS FROM THE TOMB. AFTER SEVERAL HOURS THE ANTIQUITIES WERE LOADED INTO THE HELICOPTER AND FLOWN SOUTH TOWARDS THE

ISRAELI BORDER, THE VILLAGER REPORTEDLY SAID.
PARKER

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